(iii) 'SARC' Radiation Plant at the SRIRAM Institute of Industrial Research, New Delhi.

The first two plants are operating with a capacity utilization factor of over 90% and the third at approximately 50%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Technical assistance is being provided to private entrepreneurs for setting up such plants.

Functioning of GMRT

2725. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stage and level of functioning of the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research;

(b) whether it has become functional, if so, to what use it has been put; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make the best and efficient use of this Telescope?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) being set up by TIFR, an aided Institution of the Department of Atomic Energy is in the final stages of completion. It consists of an array of 30 fully steerable parabolic dish antennas each with a diameter of 45 metres. The 30 dishes are installed over a region extending upto about 25 km near Narayangaon about 80 Km North of Pune. It is expected to become fully operational over the next few months.

(b) and (c) the Telescope will be used to carry out front-line fundamental research in astronomy and to study the properties of stars and galaxies and the large scale structure and evolution of the Universe. GMRT will be the largest and most powerful telescope in the world operating at metre wavelengths in the frequency range of 50-1500 MHz. The Department would ensure that this facility is put to the best and efficient use.

Setting up of New Atomic power plants

2726. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the atomic energy source is being expanded by augmenting the capacity of the existing atomic power plants and setting up of new such plants, in view of the depleting coal reserves in the country;

(b) the number of atomic power plants in the country at present, alongwith their location and power generating capacity and performance level; and

(c) the future plans for setting up of such plants during the Ninth Five Year Plan, with their proposed capacity and target dates for commissioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Presently there are ten nuclear power reactors generating electricity in our country as given below:—